

POLISH

CHALLENGE

FUND

Call for Proposals





Hello!

Take part in the **Call for Proposals** to the Polish Challenge Fund jointly hosted by the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland!

This activity is an effort to identify promising innovative solutions that facilitate **transfer of the Polish know-how** to have a positive impact at scale and address development challenges in three programme countries: **Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.**



What is the purpose?

The purpose of the Polish Challenge Fund is to identify promising innovations that **leverage Polish know-how and generate greater efficiency of UNDP programmes** in Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Specifically, we set out to:

- Identify solutions that generate improvement and value, especially by introducing new methods, ideas, or products.
- Support solutions that assure viability in local conditions, long-term sustainability, and potential for scale-up.
- Promote solutions to share knowledge and tackle development challenges in other countries.

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Who can participate?

The eligible Applicants include **private sector entities, research institutes and universities registered in the Republic of Poland.**

The Applicants are required to engage **local partners from Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine** to assure viability in local conditions. Partnership needs to be documented by Letter of Intent or Contract.



What kind of innovations?

We recognize that innovations come in many forms, and **welcome different types of innovations** including products, services, programming approaches, operational changes, finance and market innovations or technology driven innovations, among others.

Both programmatic and operational ideas are welcome!

At what stage should your innovation be?



Proof of Concept

To test the proposed solutions and/or to be able to tailor-make them. When the intellectual concept behind an innovation is field-tested to gain an early, 'real-world' assessment of its potential.



Transition to Scale

When innovations that have demonstrated small-scale success develop their model and attract partners to help fill gaps in their capacity to scale.

Your ideas can fit anywhere between stage 1 or 2 at the moment. **Every idea is valuable!**



01

Green Technologies & Smart Solutions

Introducing or improving the current state of green technologies and other smart solutions, which have a positive impact on local communities and industries, in the field of energy efficiency, waste management, water management, smart water solutions, air pollution or sustainable agriculture.

Examples:

- Smart clean water solutions for local communities and industries (e.g. sewage treatment plants; installation of solar vacuum collectors for water heating).
- Biomimicry and/or nature-based solutions to address climate change and biodiversity crises in general; and to reduce air pollution, waste- and water-related problems in particular.
- Green technologies for energy efficiency in public buildings (e.g. managing energy efficiency, consumption and costs by intelligent motion detectors and monitoring systems).
- Waste management with special focus on elimination of plastic use (e.g. promoting biodegradable products) or sustainable agriculture.

02

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Introducing or improving the current state of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and/or open data use for public services and/or local governance

Examples:

- Citizen-centric local governance through innovative technology – develop solutions for the improved governance for the municipalities.
- ICT solutions for better public service delivery.
- ICT for sustainable tourism development.
- Enhanced business continuity in public administration through cloud services and cybersecurity standards.
- Early warning system about climate-related risks at the level of local or regional community.

Outputs and Target Groups:

- Number of trained experts and/or beneficiaries (men/women).
- Number of provided technologies and/or released policy papers/strategic documents for the local institutions and/or capacity building events.
- Number of created jobs and/or opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

03

Anti COVID-19 Solutions

Introducing or improving the current state of digital and emerging solutions/technologies to address development issues resulting from the global health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, for public services or local governance.

Examples:

- Digital technologies and knowledge/solutions for safe back-to-office and back-to-school.
- Digital technologies and knowledge/solutions to accelerate digital literacy of public schools, teaching staff and students.
- Digital technologies and knowledge/solutions to integrate use of big data into statistical works and to overcome challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Psychosocial well-being during extended remote working, teaching and studying.
- Technology and smart solutions for social distancing and COVID-19 safe tourism, economic recovery and well-being beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ICT for COVID-19 vaccine promotion and for confronting misinformation about vaccines.
- Addressing root causes of COVID-19 (and other zoonoses) – e.g. deforestation, destruction of natural habitats and biodiversity loss.
- Addressing COVID-19 related waste problems (e.g. masks).

04

Smart Cities

Introducing or improving the current state of smart cities and urban intelligence to address growing urbanization challenges for public services or local governance.

Examples:

- Efficient use of infrastructure through artificial intelligence and data analytics.
- Gender-responsible solutions and technologies for improved public spaces.
- Technology and data innovation for road and travel safety (e.g. adjusting light cadence and timing to respond to real-time traffic, reducing road congestion).
- Solutions to promote cycling and green mobility in urban areas.
- Smart and inclusive tourism infrastructure and services with focus on persons with disabilities.
- Solutions for urban transformation of the coal-dependent (mono-functional) cities (technological, social, cultural, political and economic).

What kind of challenges?

If your idea does not fit in any of these development challenges, please do not hesitate to contact us before applying!

What are the SDGs?

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a powerful aspiration for improving our world – laying out **where we collectively need to go** and how to get there.

Select the SDGs and targets which best align to your idea, assets and priorities.



Goal 6

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Goal 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Goal 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Goal 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Goal 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy



Goal 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Goal 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

When aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals, make sure to understand their underlying targets. To learn more about the SDGs, you can visit the website: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

What are the evaluation criteria?



- Degree of Innovation
- Impact and Project Quality
- Experience of the Team
- Potential for Scale-up and Replication
- Long-term Sustainability
- Scope of Bid Price
- Availability of Co-funding

> Degree of Innovation 10%

Demonstrated by SDGs relevance and originality – i.e. new product or approach, new to local market/sector, disruptive and transferable.

> Impact and Project Quality 20%

Demonstrated by properly set-up metrics for measurement of *development impact* (incl. sector benefits, impact on beneficiaries), and *Project quality* (incl. knowledge of local conditions and assessments preceding formulation of the Project).

> Experience of the Team 10%

Demonstrated by practical examples/references proving relevant expertise, relevant educational and professional experience and suitable knowledge of English and local language/s.

> Potential for Scale-up and Replication 10%

Demonstrated in scalability (incl. building on existing technology or approach, adaptable at minimum cost, addressing bigger need in market) and replicability (incl. easy to duplicate, adaptable to different regions and countries, usable in other sectors).

> Long-term Sustainability 10%

Demonstrated in financial, social and environment sustainability, which fits the market and is valid for the long-term.

> Scope of Bid Price 30%

Reflected in balance between the overhead costs (incl. management costs, rent, production), production costs (incl. raw materials, equipment, licensing and taxes) and delivery costs (incl. installation and trainings, travel, communication and VAT).

> Availability of Co-funding 10%

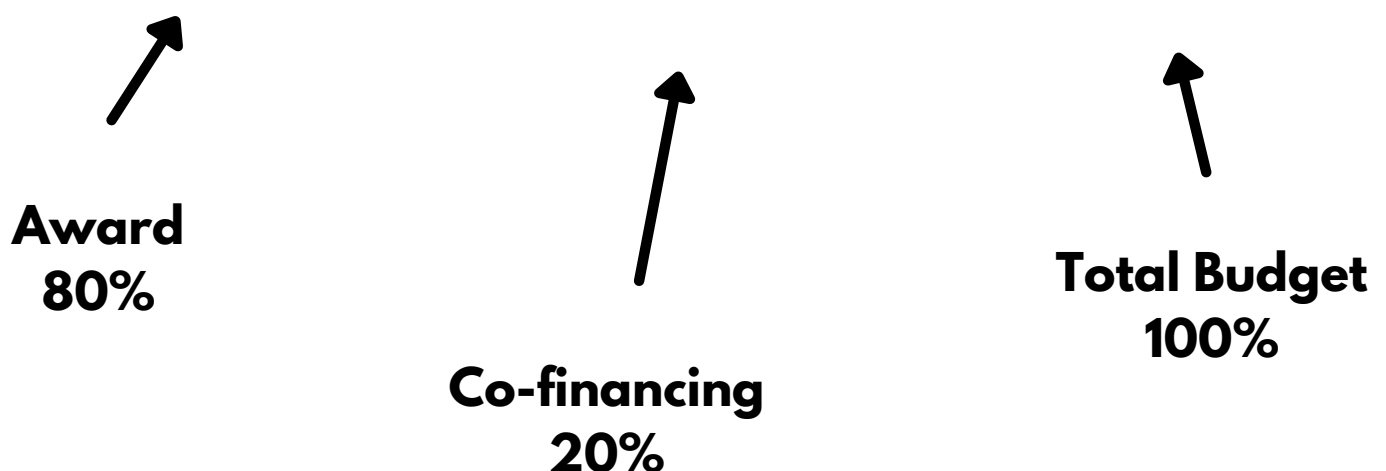
0% for the required minimum of 20% of total Project costs, then 0.5% for every additional 1% co-funding of the total Projects costs, up to a maximum 10% = 40% co-funding of total Project costs.

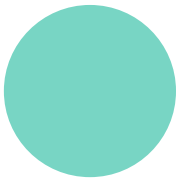
Ideas and innovations will be evaluated against all eligibility criteria, we recommend including as much information about these criteria as possible.

Can you provide more details on co-financing?

- The total budget of the Project, comprising of the maximum 80% for the price funding („Award“), and **minimum 20% for the matching funds** from other sources („Co-financing“).
- **Co-financing can be financial or in-kind** (e.g. a cash value of use of facilities like lab or meeting spaces, patents and licenses for use, study materials, technologies, components etc.).
- Co-financing **above the minimum threshold is preferred** and will be taken into account during evaluation: 0% for the required minimum of 20% of total Project costs, then 0.5% for every additional 1% Co-funding of the total Projects costs.
- Co-financing stated in the application and approved by the Project Board will be part of the contract as well as **monitoring and reporting** during the project implementation.

US\$40,000 + US\$10,000 = US\$50,000





What does the winner get?

- Receive price funding ranging **between US\$20,000 and US\$40,000** for the period of 7-12 months.
- Possibility to access the UNDP global presence (+170 countries) and networks to help support the selected solutions to **scale-up and replicate** to new countries.
- Possibility to get **reference letters** for other public procurement and tender (after successful Project execution and completion).

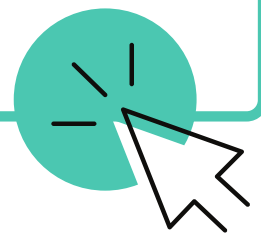


We have an idea! How do we submit?

Scan the QR code below to find the call for proposals. We have everything organized for you there. Simply follow the steps in the Application Form and answer the questions to the best of your ability. Submit it – and voilà! It's done.



**Submit My
Idea**





Where can we get more information?

We will host an **online webinars** to provide clarifications and answer questions you might have about the Polish Challenge Fund.

- First webinar: Tuesday, 9 November 2021, 14:00 – 16:00 CET
- Second webinar: Tuesday, 16 November 2021, 14:00 – 16:00 CET

Information on the upcoming webinars and links to register are posted under the Autumn 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund. After registration you will receive a notification with a link to join the webinar.



What is the deadline for Applications?

The deadline for submissions of Applications is **December 20, 2021 at 11:59 PM CET.**

Do you need help?

Feel free to reach out to us at **procurement.irh@undp.org** at any point in the process and we will do our best to answer your questions.

POLISH

INVITE

FAQ

October, 2021

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The Polish Challenge Fund is a component of the "**Polish-UNDP Partnership: Innovative Solutions for the SDGs**", a Programme financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and implemented by UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub.

